

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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DRAFTED BY IO/PMS:DLSTOTTLEMYER:MJS
APPROVED BY IO:CRFRANK, JR.
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN, PORG

SUBJECT:UN ADMINISTRATION: ACC REPORT ON EXPENDITURES OF
THE UN SYSTEM IN RELATION TO PROGRAMS

REFS: (A) STATE A-1116, (B) USUN 01721

1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR USG VIEWS CONTAINED REFTTEL
B, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OUR VIEWS EXPRESSED IN REF A,
MISSION IS REQUESTED TO SEND REPLY TO UN DRAWING ON POINTS
MADE BELOW.

2. GENERALLY WE ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE OF UN EFFORTS TO
FURTHER IMPROVE SUBJECT REPORT SINCE IT PROVIDES ONLY AVAIL-
ABLE UN SYSTEM-WIDE DATA INDICATING BY PROGRAM AREAS WHERE
INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES, AND SYSTEM AS A WHOLE, ARE ALLOCATING
THEIR AVAILABLE RESOURCES. THIS INDICATES, FURTHERMORE,
NOT ONLY LEVEL OF EFFORT BUT ALSO RELATIVE PRIORITY ACCORD-
ED TO INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM SECTORS. AS SUCH, INFORMATION IS
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USEFUL IN HELPING TO DETERMINE WHETHER EXPENDITURES ARE
CONSISTENT WITH ESTABLISHED PROGRAM PRIORITIES, EXTENT TO
WHICH INDIVIDUAL AGENCY EFFORTS ARE DUPLICATING THOSE OF
OTHER AGENCIES, AND CHANGES OVER TIME IN EXPENDITURES FOR
EACH PROGRAM AREA.

3. DEPARTMENT IS ANALYZING THIS INFORMATION IN CONTEXT OF

PREPARING INITIAL ACTION PROGRAMS FOR SELECTED UN AGENCIES AND, ONCE COMPLETED, HOPES TO BE IN A POSITION TO SUGGEST MORE DEFINITELY WHAT CHANGES MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE IT MORE RESPONSIVE TO OUR NEEDS. IN THE INTERIM, WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT DATA WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED BY ACC TO MEMBER STATES GENERALLY ALONG LINES OF RECENT REPORTING.

4. USEFULNESS OF REPORT COULD BE IMPROVED IF: (A) AN ANALYSIS WAS PROVIDED WHICH INTER ALIA WOULD IDENTIFY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN EXPENDITURES, REASONS FOR THESE CHANGES, POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS, AND ANY POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FORESEEN; (B) INFORMATION WAS PRESENTED GRAPHICALLY THROUGH THE USE OF BAR CHARTS, GRAPHS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES; AND (C) DATA WAS PRESENTED IN MILLIONS (E.G., 25.4) RATHER THAN PRESENT THOUSANDS (E.G., 25,400). WE WOULD URGE, FURTHERMORE, THAT THE SECRETARIAT FULLY EXPLORE FEASIBILITY OF COMPUTERIZING DATA, INCLUDING BOTH COLLECTING DATA FROM AGENCIES IN MACHINE READABLE FORM AND PRESENTING IT DIRECTLY THROUGH COMPUTER PRINTOUT. NOT ONLY SHOULD THIS EXPEDITE REPORT AND ENSURE GREATER ACCURACY, BUT IN THIS FORMAT WOULD PROVIDE SECRETARIAT WITH ADDITIONAL ANALYTICAL CAPABILITY NOT NOW POSSIBLE IN MANUAL SYSTEM.

5. REGARDING PROGRAM CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE, WE BELIEVE THAT EXISTING NUMBER OF QUOTE PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITY UNQUOTE UNCLASSIFIED

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COULD BE SOMEWHAT REDUCED AND EXPRESSED MORE SIMPLY AND CONSISTENTLY (E.G., USING QUOTE EMPLOYMENT UNQUOTE RATHER THAN QUOTE LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT UNQUOTE). ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO REFINING AND IMPROVING SUBSECTORS SINCE, AT PRESENT, THEY APPEAR TO BE TOO LIMITED IN NUMBER, DO NOT FOLLOW A CONSISTENT PATTERN, AND AGENCY EXPENDITURES ARE NOT BROKEN OUT AT THIS LEVEL ACCORDING TO REGULAR BUDGET AND EXTRABUDGETARY AS IS THE CASE AT THE PROGRAM LEVEL. FURTHERMORE, REPORTING FOR QUOTE POLICY MAKING ORGANS UNQUOTE AND QUOTE OTHER BUDGETARY PROVISIONS UNQUOTE IS ONLY AT THE PROGRAM LEVEL AND BOTH REQUIRE A FURTHER BREAKDOWN BY AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF SUB-SECTORS.

6. PRESENT REPORT IS DEFICIENT SINCE IT PRESENTS AGENCY ACTIVITIES ONLY IN ONE DIMENSION (I.E., VERTICALLY BY ESTABLISHED PROGRAM AND SUB-SECTOR CLASSIFICATION). EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO DEVELOP A SECOND DIMENSION (I.E., HORIZONTALLY, CUTTING ACROSS PROGRAMS AND SUB-PROGRAMS) WHEREBY, FOR EXAMPLE, ALL EXPENDITURES FOR QUOTE ENERGY UNQUOTE COULD BE AGGREGATED IN NON-ADDITIVE TERMS BY EXTRACTING THESE EXPENDITURES FROM THE EXISTING

QUOTE PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITY UNQUOTE. WHILE THE CLASSIFICATION BY PROGRAMS WOULD REMAIN FIXED OVER TIME, THE SUBJECT INTEREST NON-ADDITIVE REPORTING COULD BE CHANGED BASED ON THE EXPRESSED NEEDS OF MEMBER STATES AT A PARTICULAR TIME.

7. WE QUESTION THE UTILITY OF INFORMATION AS PRESENTED AND CONTAINED IN ACC REPORTS UNDER QUOTE NOTES ON CONTENT OF SUB-SECTORS UNQUOTE. WHILE IT IS DESIRABLE TO PROVIDE A CROSSWALK BETWEEN AGENCY PROGRAM BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTED BY ACC, THE METHOD NOW EMPLOYED IS SO IMPRECISE TO MAKE IT ALL BUT MEANINGLESS. CONSEQUENTLY, A CERTIFIED EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY ACC SECRETARIAT TO REFINES THIS PRESENTATION SO THAT A SIMPLE CROSSWALK CAN BE CONSTRUCTED; IF THIS PROVES TOO DIFFICULT, THEN MATERIAL AS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOW PRESENTED SHOULD BE DROPPED FROM FUTURE ACC REPORTS.

8. FINALLY, WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON HOW REPORTING SYSTEM WILL BE REVISED, AND AT THAT TIME WILL COMMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, ON NEW APPROACH.

CHRISTOPHER

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